54TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { REPORT No. 731.

BLANKS FOR NICKELS AND PENNIES.

MARCH 11, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. CHARLES W. STONE, from the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany House Res. No. 172.]

The Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures, to whom was referred House resolution No. 172 requesting certain information from the Secretary of the Treasury, respectfully report:

The law authorizing and regulating the purchase of metal for the coinage of the minor coins is embraced in section No. 5528 of the Revised Statutes, which specifically invests in the Superintendent of the Mint at Philadelphia the power to make such purchases as follows:

> The Superintendent, with the approval of the Director of the Mint as to price, terms, and quantity, shall purchase the metal required for such coining by public advertisement and the lowest and best bid shall be accepted, the fineness of the metals to be determined on the Mint assay.

Hence the preamble of the resolution submitted is entirely inapplicable and the recital in the first resolution of the section of the Revised Statutes is inaccurate.

Your committee therefore recommend that the resolution be amended by striking out the preamble and by further striking out the words "thirty-seven hundred and nine," in the eighth line of the first resolution, and inserting in lieu thereof the words "thirty-seven hundred and fifty-eight," and as thus amended they recommend the passage of the resolution.